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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,611	12/22/2003	Jeffrey Todd Haselby	200309297-1	7555

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,611

Applicant(s)

HASELBY ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12 and 14-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 14-17 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 14 - 17 are dependent on the canceled claim 13. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3-7 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knapp, Jr. et al. [US 4,616,207].

Regarding claims 1, 3, 5 and 22-23, Knapp, Jr. et al. disclose a bracket assembly (figures 6-10), comprising: a bracket (63) having a bulkhead retaining portion (a retaining portion as shown at right corner of figures 6 and 8); a protective device (12, figure 10); and a retaining element/nut (figures 6-8) operable to couple the protective device to the bracket, wherein the bracket further comprises a protective device mounting tab portion (140) to which the protective device is coupled by the retaining portion.

Regarding claim 4, Knapp, Jr. et al. further disclose wherein the bracket further comprises a bulkhead mounting portion operable to attach to a bulkhead surface and wherein the protective device mounting portion is not in contact with the bulkhead mounting portion of the bracket (figure 9).

Regarding claims 6-7 and 24, Knapp, Jr. et al. further disclose wherein the protective device comprises a plurality of protective devices, the protective device mounting portion further comprises a plurality of tab portions of the bracket, and wherein the retaining element further comprises a plurality of retaining elements (figure 10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Currier et al. [US 6,441,304] in view of Knapp, Jr. et al.

Regarding claims 8 and 14-17, as best understood, Currier et al. disclose a power connector assembly (figure 1), comprising: a bracket assembly (12); a power connector (14) and a bracket power connector fastening element (figure 1) operable to couple the power connector to a bulkhead (12e, 12c and 12d) and the bulkhead to the bracket assembly.

Currier et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the bracket assembly including a protective device structure being mounted thereon.

Knapp, et al. discloses a bracket assembly (figures 6-10) including a protective device mounting portion holding at least one protective device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the protective device design of Knapp, Jr. et al. with the bracket assembly of Currier et al., for the purpose of protecting an electrical circuit.

Regarding claims 9 and 18, Currier et al., as modified, further disclose wherein the assembly may be inserted through a receiving portion of a bulkhead with the exception of a portion of the power connector remaining external to the bulkhead (figure 1), wherein the power connector having a plurality of screws which connect to a plurality of cables.

Regarding claims 10-12, Currier et al. disclose the power connector including a plurality of nuts to connect to a plurality of power cables (figures 2-3).

Currier et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for a plurality of cables coupled to the protective device.

Knapp, Jr. et al. disclose the bracket assembly having a plurality of protective devices, wherein each of the protective device includes two nuts to connect to a power cables (figure 10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect cables to the protective device of Knapp, Jr. et al., in Currier et al., for the purpose of providing currents passing through the protective device.

Regarding claims 19-21, the claimed method steps would have been inherit in the product structures.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-12 and 14-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fisher, Jr. [US 5,641,953] discloses a safety interlock system for telecommunication device.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2841

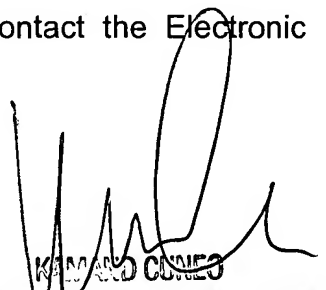
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/17/06

Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841



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